

HOUSE RESOLUTION 123

By Hodges

A RESOLUTION to honor Command Sergeant Major Lesley Freeman, Jr., U.S. Army (Retired), upon his many accomplishments in the military and in his community.

WHEREAS, we are pleased to recognize an exemplary gentleman who served his country with distinction in the U.S. Army for twenty-six years before taking a much-deserved retirement; he has since worked with purpose and commitment to help the youth of his community develop the necessary skills for a productive life and good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Lesley Freeman, Jr., U.S. Army (Retired), has been a loyal, dedicated, and patriotic servant of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, in peacetime and war, providing selfless volunteer service, leadership, and professionalism, both as a soldier and a retired citizen, to Fort Campbell personnel and the Clarksville community; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from military service in 1997, CSM Freeman recommitted himself to the soldiers, youth, and family members of Fort Campbell through his volunteer work at Cole Park Golf Club and with the First Tee program; and

WHEREAS, enlisting in the Army in 1971, Mr. Freeman underwent basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, thus beginning an illustrious military career that included assignments in the Republic of Korea, where he developed a close quarters combatives training program that is still used by the Army today; a restricted NATO base in Germany, where he taught Girl Scouts about American values; Saudi Arabia, in support of Desert Shield/Storm; and once again the Republic of Korea, where he developed and implemented the highly successful Cultural Heritage Awareness Program; and

WHEREAS, the highlights of his Army career are far too numerous to delineate here, but include receipt of the 101<sup>st</sup> Air Division Trophy, the Honorable Order of St. Barbara, the Legion

of Merit, and numerous other awards, citations, commendations, and accolades; he also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern State University of Louisiana while serving his country; and

WHEREAS, while stationed in Hawaii, CSM Freeman began playing the game of golf and through hard work became proficient at the sport; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the Army, he began volunteering as a golf marshal at Cole Park Golf Club at Fort Campbell and was soon utilizing the game as a tool to teach values and life skills to young people; and

WHEREAS, CSM Freeman was instrumental in founding the first youth golf program at Fort Campbell and First Tee of Clarksville, which is part of a national program that uses golf to build character, inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience in young people; and

WHEREAS, as the First Tee military affiliate program manager, he has conducted training at all the schools at Fort Campbell and obtained golf equipment for each elementary school at the base; and

WHEREAS, as a certified instructor with First Tee of Clarksville, CSM Freeman has conducted youth training in golf for the YMCA, First Baptist Church, Abundant Life Outreach Church, Tabernacle Christian School, Greater Missionary Baptist Church, Clarksville Christian School, United Korean Church, and the Academy of Academic Excellence; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 until 2014, he worked closely with the newly founded Fort Campbell High School golf program; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2021, Mr. Freeman realized the dream of every golfer when he made a hole in one at Cole Park; and

WHEREAS, throughout his bountiful life, Lesley Freeman, Jr., has exemplified his personal motto, "Think the Best, Be the Best, Always," and he continues to do so today as a public servant and youth leader of the greatest commitment and ability; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor Command Sergeant Major Lesley Freeman, Jr., U.S. Army (Retired), upon his many accomplishments in the military and in his community, thank him for his dedicated service to his country, his fellow soldiers and their families, and his community, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.